

Fort Worth ISD School Library Advisory Council Meeting

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 4:48 pm – 6:00 pm

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Online)

Facilitator: Valerie Tago, Director of Library Media Services

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1. Overview and Call to Order

Called to order by: Valerie Tagoe at 4:48 pm.

Agenda Posting: Confirmed compliant with Texas Open Meetings Act and FWISD regulations; posted on ISD website at least 72 hours prior.

Session Focus: Review and practice of library material selection, evaluation, and approval for the district.

2. Attendees and Introductions

Board-Appointed Voting Members (names, some with district affiliations):

Zach Leonard-Present

Christine Newton-Absent

Dr. Keona Roberts-Absent

Sarah Peterson-Present

Ellie Darden-Present

Penelope Story-Absent

Graydon Jones-Present

Lane Craig-Present

5 voting members present

District-Appointed Members:

Marilyn Martinez-Absent

Christina Godey-Absent

Manny De La Cruz-absent

Rashonda Jenkins-Absent

Julia Guzman-Present

Dave Maxon-Present

Melody Ellison-Present

Mary Quinn-Present

Valerie Tagoe-Present

5 present

(Note: Some members attended online troubleshooting of audio and role assignments during introductions.)

3. Main Topics Discussed

a. Pre-Work and Guiding Documents

Members were asked to review in advance

Selection Criteria Graphic

2024 Library Material Selection Criteria

Collection Development Guidelines

Board Policy EFB Local (Instructional Resources – Library Materials)

These documents provide the foundation for selection and evaluation decisions.

b. FWISD Library Resource Selection Criteria & Board Policy EFB Local

Summary of Criteria:

Student Level Alignment: Materials must be developmentally and reading-level appropriate.

Accuracy & Clarity: Reliable, factual, and clear information is required.

Balanced Viewpoints: Collections must represent diverse perspectives.

Curriculum Integration: Materials must reinforce and support instructional objectives.

Interest and Need Reflection: Should respond to the interests and needs of students and faculty.

Literary/Artistic Merit: High standards for writing and content; supports long-term engagement.

Exclusion of Obscene/Harmful Materials: Compliance with policy and law; explicit deselection protocols.

Board Policy EFB Local Goals:

Multiple viewpoints

Accurate/authentic information

User appeal

Equitable access

Support for academic and personal growth

c. Review of Proposed 2026 Library Materials Guidelines: Key Proposed Update

i. Alignment with Senate Bill 13

ii. Definition Expansion: Broadens “library materials” to include print, digital, classroom libraries, online catalogs, mobile apps, etc.

- iii. Governance & Roles: FLAC (SLAC) is advisory; final approval by Board of Trustees; Council selects chair and meets at least twice/year.
- iv. Training & Oversight: Emphasizes training for members and staff; superintendent oversees compliance.
- v. Collection Development Standards: Remain unchanged; stress on board authority and professional judgment in absence of reviews.
- vi. Collection Maintenance & Weeding: Responsibilities of campus librarians clarified. Weeding guided by CREW method – cannot remove solely to deny access to ideas, but can for outdated/inaccurate/illegal materials.
- vii. Procurement Process Clarity:
 - 1. Lists curated by librarians and staff.
 - 2. Lists posted publicly for at least 30 days for transparency.
- viii. Board approval extends to all ISBN formats (paper/hard/ebook/audio/language versions if content is consistent).
- ix. Parental Access & Involvement: Parents/guardians control access for their own children; may restrict or request alternative materials.
- x. Access to Libraries & Catalogs: Clarified procedures for parental access; ensures CIPA compliance.
- xi. Challenge Process: Alignment with SB 13; challenges restricted during review; appeals process clarified.
- xii. Council Role in Challenges: SLAC reviews challenged materials, follows statutory requirements (transparency, minutes, reporting).
- xiii. Appeals: Board's decision is final; limitations on repeat challenges.
- xiv. Feedback Collection: Members given 10 minutes to provide feedback on updates via Google Form (accessed via QR code and Bitly link). Draft of guidelines distributed via chat and email for review.

d. Hands-on Evaluation and Practice

- i. Title Evaluation Activity: Example title “Twins” – reviewed considering criteria, age/interest levels, and professional reviews. Members noted credible (Kirkus) reviews.
- ii. Discussion of student appeal and curricular alignment.
- iii. Scenario with Limited Reviews: Non-fiction “Nelson Mandela” title; process described when professional reviews are missing.
- iv. Rely on the publisher's age designation and conduct independent research as needed.
- v. General Guidance: Materials with limited reviews can be supported by other professional input and interest-level Data.

e. Procurement Process Overview

- i. Process Steps:
 - 1. Campus librarians curate lists (existing/new titles for purchase).
 - 2. Librarians certify vetting for each title.

3. Director of Library Media Services reviews lists; forwards new titles to SLAC for consideration.
4. Titles posted for 30-day public comment.
5. SLAC votes on the list.
6. Board votes for final approval in open meeting.
7. Upon approval, vendors update district catalog for procurement
8. Professional Reviews Importance: Selections grounded in professional evaluations from library and content area journals, awards, and expert input.

f. Review of Consideration List (Posted January 30, 2026)

- i. First Consideration List: January–February 2026 list posted January 30, open for public comment and council review.
- ii. Access: List available via QR code, Bitly link, and posted on SLAC website
- iii. Instructions: Members scan headings (title, author, campus level/region)
- iv. Next List Expectation: Next list to be posted March 6, 2026.

g. Draft Bylaws and Council Structure

- i. Draft Bylaws: Previewed, not actioned at this meeting.
- ii. Review focused on membership, quorum, procedures, chair's role, agenda/minutes.
- iii. Feedback to be sent via Google Form; suggestions to be compiled and reviewed with tracked changes ("redline") at the next meeting.
- iv. District Preview Room: Members may visit the book review room at M.G. Ellis Building to evaluate books in person. Open Monday–Friday; scheduling via email.

h. Election of Council Chairperson

- i. Requirement: SB 13 mandates an elected Chair at first meeting; role is procedural, not decision-making.
- ii. Duties: Presides over meetings, certifies minutes, assures compliance with notice/recording requirements; no independent authority.
- iii. Nomination Process: No pre-meeting nominations received.
- iv. Introductions: Each member provided a two-minute self-introduction highlighting background, interest, and relevant experience.
- v. Outcome: Lane Craig volunteered; nominated and approved by consensus vote as the new SLAC chairperson.

i. Open Q&A and Council Procedures

- i. Review Procedures: Members may review the list of recommended titles and raise questions/concerns.
- ii. Not required to conduct full reports on every book; role is to approve or flag titles of concern.
- iii. The professional vetting by librarians was expected, with council providing oversight and secondary review.
- iv. Longer lists may include duplicate titles (different ISBN formats).

- v. Communication Protocols: Valerie Tagoe will email members between meetings with updates, public comments on lists, and other information.
- vi. Meeting announcements will be posted on the SLAC website.
- vii. Ongoing technical upgrades: Plan to set up Titlewave accounts (Follett vendor) for easier review access.
- viii. Clarifications: Board approval to encompass all ISBN formats for a title is still a proposed guideline and not yet finalized.
- ix. SLAC members may communicate via email for queries or visit the website for information.
- x. The next opportunity to review and act on bylaws will be at the next meeting.

4. Action Items

- a. Provide Feedback: All members should submit feedback on proposed Collection Development Guidelines via the designated Google Form.
- b. Review Draft Bylaws: Between now and the next meeting, members must read the draft bylaws and submit feedback via form or email.
- c. Access and Review Consideration List: Members should review the January–February 2026 list and note any concerns or questions.
- d. Set Up Titlewave Accounts: Valerie Tagoe to coordinate with Follett the representative to create member accounts for better review access.
- e. Visit District Book Review Room (Optional): Members interested should contact Valerie to schedule visits for book evaluation.
- f. Monitor Communications: Watch for emails with public comments on the consideration list and other SLAC business.
- g. Next Meeting Preparation: Prepare suggested edits and feedback on bylaws for discussion/action at next session.

5. Follow-Up and Next Meeting

- a. **Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026**
- b. Key Agenda: Action on proposed bylaws, and additional consideration lists.
- c. Interim Communications: Members to receive any new information, comments on lists, and relevant documents via email and website posting.
- d. Adjournment Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm.
- e. Appreciation expressed to all participating members for their role in supporting student access to high-quality library materials.